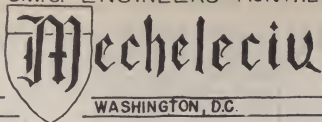


HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR

C.W.U. ENGINEERS MONTHLY



BUY  
ANOTHER  
BOND

VOL V NO. III

WASHINGTON, D.C.

DECEMBER, 1945

The George Washington University

Washington, D. C.

# Merry Christmas

## BALL FOR '46

Plans for the Fifteenth Annual Engineers Ball have been completed, announces the President of the Engineers Council, Dan Andrich. Alfred Barauck, Chairman of the Ball Committee, states that the Wardman Park Hotel is the place, February 16, 1946, the day and that the music is to be furnished by Roy May and his orchestra.

## SCHOOL STATISTICS

The first issue of the MECH-LECIV this year published an article on enrollment increase in which a marked increase was predicted. This increase did materialize as was announced in the last issue. Since then it has been learned that a marked change has taken place in the percentage of part-time to full-time students. It has always been true that the part-time outnumbered the full-time students four to one. This term however, the worm has turned and we have 55 percent full-time to 45 percent part-time students. This is partly due to a greatly increased freshmen class which has always been predominately full time.

It has also been learned that the University is discussing plans for a summer school in Engineering for those that wish to attend. It is expected that two semesters work will be offered during the summer so that it will fit in with the regular work during the winter. It is hoped that more definite information will be available for the next issue.

## ENGINEERS BELL YULETIDE TREE

Now that, at long last, we have acquired a school bell, the problem is what we shall do with it. Any suggestions should be referred to John Doane, chairman of the committee set up to handle the problem.

A brief history of the bell should be interesting. It was cast for a German ship built before the first World War. During that war President Wilson confiscated the ship for his personal use to go to the peace conferences, and renamed it the "S. S. George Washington". M. E. Prof. Arthur F. Johnson obtained the bell for us from the Navy in Norfolk. This 600 lb. wonder is now housed in the M. E. lab. and anyone wishing to see it is welcome at anytime.

Sigma Tau suggested that we build a special building for our bell, but this seems a little far-fetched. If no ideas are forthcoming, it may spend the rest of its bronze life hidden in the M. E. lab. This would be truly a pity, for it is beautiful.

The Engineers Council has erected their annual University Christmas Tree which can be seen on Ligner Terrace. The Tree Committee Chairman, Dave Carlson, and a work crew of council members procured the tree in Fairfax with the aid of Prof A.D. Hitchcock, Head of the Civil Engineering Department. (Ed. Note, story next issue).

The presentation which will take place after the MECH-LECIV has gone to press will be on Monday, December 17, at 5:45 pm. Dan Andrich, President of the Engineers Council, will present the Tree to Dean Feiker, who will turn it over to the University. President Marvin will accept it for the University and will throw the switch to illuminate the Tree.

Before the war, the Christmas Tree was an annual gift of the Engineers to the University. The custom was discontinued after 1941 due to transportation difficulties. Last year it was resumed, and a live tree behind Corcoran Hall was decorated.

## STAFF ADDITIONS

The MECH-LECIV announces two new additions to its staff. Larjorie Rhodes, Features Editor, and Bernadine Dunfee, Column Coordinator, both of whom are members of the A.I.E.E.

The paper needs more staff for its new aims and plans. A Photographic Editor, photographers or even photographs are desperately needed, as can be noted by the lack of pictures in this and the last issues. Writers, reporters and typists are also in demand.

## CALENDAR

### January

- 2 Society Meetings  
A.S.M.E., A.I.E.E.  
and A.S.C.E.
- 9 Engineers Council  
Theta Tau - short
- 16 Sigma Tau - long



The MECHLECIV is put out monthly by the undergraduates of the School of Engineering of George Washington University. It is prepared at 1629 North Oak Street, Arlington, Virginia, Chestnut 302L, and may be reached at this address.

Editor-in-chief...Stuart Beatson  
Assoc. Editor...Harmon Holcomb  
Features Editor...Marjorie Rhodes  
Col. Coordinator...Bernadine Dunfer  
Columnists

ME and You....Bob Kemelhor  
Short Circuits...Bernadine Dunfee  
A. S. C. E....Haaren Miklofsky  
Sigma Tau....Haaren Miklofsky  
Theta Tau.....Al Brauck

## THE TREE AND YOU

Perhaps last year you noticed the Christmas tree just outside Corcoran, and again this year you will see it on Lister Terrace. The colored lights will liven up the "campus" adding a note of Christmas cheer. This is a Merry Christmas from the Engineers to the University. But you are an Engineer, and what did you have to do with this tree? You probably found out about it along with the rest of the University. But be not alarmed. This is representative government. The Engineers Council is your council, duly elected by you, and has done this for you. But, do not think it happened without effort nor think it was all sugar and cream. To the council and those that help them that tree will represent cold hours in winters breezes and tired backs cutting, erecting, and trimming it.

This is all leading up to a question. Would you have helped, had you been asked?

We are afraid the answer would be NO.

We speak from past experience. Look at the "turn out" to the MECHLECIV, and that for the society meetings, and we might go on.

Why is this so? Is it because the 'Big shots' on campus don't do their part, or is it because you are not that  
(Cont. next Col.)

interested in your profession or shhool. Youe tell us, we want the answers We are putting this paper out to let you know whats what around school. Now we are asking you. Drop us a line, give us a ahand.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This letter was sent to the MECHLECIV by Lt. Thomas H. Johnson, an alumnus of the Engineering School now stationed in Hawaii. He writes that he has been working with radar for the Army, and has been through the electronics and radar schools at Harvard and M. I. T.

### "Fellow Engineers:

You may be interested to know that the MECHLECIV really gets around. Your October issue washed into this lonely rock this evening--almost literally. It is good to be brought up to date on many pleasant memories. I used to live around there too, once upon a time.

The scope and quality of the MECHLECIV is rather startling to me, considering the comparatively few years it has been going. High standards and a lot of work are obvious. We used to need such a paper to pass the word around, but had to depend on the less certain conversation of beer-hall meetings after class. For those who don't drink beer, though (do you know any?), there is no longer any excuse for remaining uninformed. The best of luck to you.

Please give my regards to Dean Felker, Dr. Johnson, Profs. Cruickshanks, Hitchcock, Cook, Walther, Strollo, and Ames. I have had my tussles with them, but I am glad to encourage them to give you the same thing they gave me. This is a good education mixed with good friendship."

I'm warning you in advance! This is a gripe letter. Print it only if you have space to fill.

My first gripe is the Engineers' Lounge. Yes, I know the Council has been worrying about it, but the lighting has been terrible as  
(Cont. next Col.)

## THE DEAN'S COLUMN

Christmas 1944 - one year ago - found my oldest son crowded in a German box-car with 60 other prisoners of war. He wrote later from a prison camp, "The way I spent Christmas 1944, will be worth telling for many years to come." He will not come back to tell the story, but from fellow officers who shared that day I have learned that without food for a week, these men conducted Jewish, catholic and protestant services of rejoicing and sang together the old familiar carols.

I think of that day as I write you this Christmas message for the year 1945. "Peace on earth - good will to men," this fateful year has new meaning and hope. For our country, the fighting war is over, and the words "good will to men" are once more the basis for a fighting chance for a better, happier world.

The evidence of the eternal spirit that moves the hearts of men at war hangs also on my office wall. That generous tribute to me from the graduating class of 1945 of the School of Engineering contains the formula for the future happiness of all mankind. Charity, understanding, sympathy, good-will - all are written there. On what firmer foundations can we build the years ahead?

I share with you all, a Merry Christmas, and I wish for you all a New Year of accomplishment.

everyone knows. However, two 500 watt lamp bulbs were substituted for the 300 watt lamps. They remained there for several days and all the habits remarked about the improvement. Then the school began worrying about its electric bill and the larger lamps were removed and the smaller wattage lamps were replaced. What is the school worried about--its students eyes or its electric bill?

Last May Prof. Walther was asked to have the black-out paint on the skylight removed. Other professors have been asked to do the same since then. Well, the paint is still there. Are we trying to keep war momentum? I could go on and on  
(Cont. Page 4)



This column will primarily be a report of my visit to the annual convention of the ASME held in New York recently.

There were approximately a hundred papers by well-known practical engineers presented at the six-day meeting, and as a student member of the ASME, I was entitled to listen to as many as I liked.

I was there for two days, and due to the fact that I was obliged to attend the annual dinner Tuesday night and the Student Luncheon Wednesday afternoon, it was impossible for me to listen to many papers. I did manage to take a field trip to the Queens Midtown tunnel. They conducted us through every nook and cranny of the structure. The Ventilating Plants, where one can observe in operation some of the largest blowers in the world; the Control Room where one panel tells the operator exactly what is going on in each foot of the tunnel; the Garage, from which that "Babe Goldber" operates — this machine is used to remove any obstruction in the tunnel, and is capable of moving out of the tunnel in nothing flat, practically any type of vehicle in existence at the present time.

The Annual Dinner was attended by about 2000 members of the national organization. The principal speaker was Lt.-General Ira C. Baker, Deputy Commander of the Army Air Forces. Pointing to "spectacular innovations in technological warfare which appeared with ever-increasing momentum in World War II and culminated with the atomic bomb" the General said it should be clear to all that "scientific research to insure the maintenance of our security is also vital."

"I believe it is in the national interest," he continued, "to establish a national research foundation composed of the most highly qualified scientists in the United States and charged with the responsibility of furthering basic research and development in all fields of science and the scientific training of adequate numbers of highly qualified men. Scientific planning



Who would have the audacity to so accuse Electrical Engineers of committing such a faux pas — referring, of course, to the title: anybody in the intelligentsia would know that no EE at CW would short circuit anything, unintentionally, speaking electrically or otherwise. The meaning of that descriptive phrase to you who are interested is should a short circuit appear, we know the next move. What we are effortlessly trying to say, is that the EE's know what they are doing, where they are going and what they are going to do when they get there. Proof? Would they dare be so adventuresome as to ask students — as Cliff Williamson, Dominic Toffolo and I might add Ed Shytile — to present the feature talks at monthly meetings? (Permit a parenthetical expression — those speeches made us not one whit sorry that we hadn't invited outside professional men to speak.) Would they give a delightful party at that lovely home of Prof. and Mrs. Akers, would they serve refreshments at the meetings just to initiate and cement friendships and make a social as well as an intellectual creature out of the EE? Would they be so considerate and solicitous toward the women Engineering students?

The answer is NO! The original statement is valid! Thus ends the syllogism.

must be years in advance of the actual research and development work!

The anniversary dinner was also the occasion for the annual presentation of honors and awards for distinguished work in engineering. Heading this year's list and winner of the ASME medal, was Doctor William F. Durand. Most of us will remember Dr. Durand as the guest speaker at last year's Engineers' Banquet. The award was presented in recognition of his work in forwarding the design and application of principles of jet propulsion and for his effective leadership of the Division of Engineering and Industrial Re-

(Cont. Page 4)



And what would you have done if the movie camera failed to operate? The motor just wouldn't pull the film through the camera. If you were in the ASME, you would probably look for a bad connection and spend half the night doing it. Or if you were ambitious enough, you might take the motor apart to see what made it tick. Providing you had a screwdriver, of course. And if you were in the ASME you would probably decide that the gearing system was stuck and that maybe a little oil would do the trick. And so someone would promptly empty his cigarette lighter fluid into the oil wells. Providing you had a cigarette lighter, and it had some fluid in it. But take the Civil Engineering Society students. They at least know they can't fix it. So they sent the camera back to the factory. It is, however, planned to obtain again the two films for a future showing at another meeting. One film dealt with the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge, and the other with the construction of the Oakland Bay Bridge.

The meeting was not without svent, however. Professor Walther came to the rescue with an inspiring talk about the future of the Engineering Students with regard to state registration examinations. Registration probably concerns the Civil Engineering student most of all. As Professor Walther put it, "registration is a protection to the Engineering profession, in that it helps to maintain it on a high professional plane."

Professor Walther also brought out the fact that unionization was another future problem that the engineering students would have to concern themselves with. He said the students would have to work their own solutions out for themselves, but that it was not too early to look into the matter and decide just what stand they would take in regard to the unionization of engineers.

Felix Geissler opened a discussion of the various field trips the society might want to take, and several suggestions

(Cont. Page 4)

## THETA TAU

Gamma Beta chapter of Theta Tau had one of its famous long meetings on Nov. 28. At this time a ballot was held, preceded and followed by a long discussion, which was declared illegal. Some one of the actives, namely Duffy Gareau, forgot to have his ballot collected. Whatta life!

It was a pleasure to see so many bright and shining (not counting that 8 o'clock shadow) faces present. If Fred Holcomb had been present, there would have been 100% attendance. By the way, Theta Tau extends its sympathy to Harmon Holcomb on the death of her mother.

The latest news in the National Capital Alumni Association of Theta Tau is the election of Frank Mitchell to the presidency; good luck, Frank. Ben Gema is vice-president, Irving Ballou secretary and Warren Crump, treasurer.

The homecoming date of Brother Ames is still indefinite, but that doesn't prevent our thinking about a party. We intend honoring him by bringing potential members to the party.

M.E. and You (from page 3)

search of the National Research Council, of which he was former chairman.

There is one thing I'd like to say in closing. I was immensely impressed by the fact that a good engineer knows how to give a good technical talk. Being able to give a technical talk is a "must" for every engineer. At our monthly meetings of ASME we are endeavoring to encourage student speakers. Our next meeting (Jan. 2, 1946) will be devoted to student talks. We need some speakers. What about it, fellows? Please get in touch with me at the ASME office (room 215 in the M.E. building) between 5:30 and 6:00 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

## SIGMA TAU

An unusual incident took place at the November 21st meeting of Sigma Tau Fraternity. Lieutenant Commander Wilburn Jave McFarland, Jr. had once been pledged to the Alpha Beta Chapter of Sigma Tau at Southern Methodist University. He had joined the Navy, however, before his scheduled initiation ceremony had taken place. A short while ago our chapter received a request from the National Secretary to have Commander McFarland formally initiated into the XI chapter at George Washington University. The initiation took place at 8:30 pm on November 21st, 1945; and by 10:30 pm Commander McFarland was on a train headed for a base north of Washington. We sincerely wish him a lot of success and happiness. Perhaps we shall be able to obtain a photograph of him for the next issue of the MECHELEGIV. For the benefit of alumni members, Commander McFarland's legal address is 937 West 8th Street, Dallas, Texas.

The membership committee is at present busily engaged in selecting candidates for admission to the fraternity. It hopes to be able to present those names to the rest of the fraternity for approval in the near future. Not alone are quality point indexes a prerequisite for admission, but also a display of ability to mix well with engineering people, and a sincere desire to be a good Engineer.

Brother Goff tells us that he will be in Room 200 next to the Engineers Lounge from 11:AM to 12: Noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the purpose of learning who the students are that desire coaching in their studies by members of the fraternity. Those desiring aid should see him at that time.

Letters to Editor (from page 2)

about the lounge - how it needs a paint job, how the reflectors need

## SCHOOL DAZE

Her dress was tight,  
She scarce could breathe;  
She sneezed aloud -  
And there stood Eve.

Two stutering blackamiths had finished heating a piece of steel and one placed it on the anvil.  
"HHHHHHHHHHhit it," he told his helper.

"WWWWWWWWWhere?" he was asked.

"Aw, hhhhhhhhhell, we'll have to heat it again."

She: "Dear would you put yourself out for me?"

He: "Of course, dear."

She: "Then please do. I'm tired."

There are two kinds of girls: those who neck, and bridesmaids.

The man who says his cigar are the best thing out, may be telling the truth.

cleaning, and so on, ad infinitum. I think the Lounge is just as much a responsibility for the school as for the Council, and yet the school assumes only 1% of the responsibility, leaving 99% to the Council which doesn't have enough authority to over rule even as simple a thing as the light bulbs.

The other major gripe concerns the secrecy of any post-war plans that the Engineering School has or may have, but I think that this subject will require another letter.

Leanne B. Anonymous

A.S.C.E. (from page 3)

were forthcoming. It was generally decided that the best time to make trips of this nature was on Saturdays at 1:30 pm, so they would not interfere with the morning meals or banking interests of the members.

Arrangements are now being made for the first of these trips, and notices will be posted when details have been completed.



Merry Christmas!  
The Students Book Company